



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

La Crosse County



County characteristics

- 453 sq. mi.
- Landscape characterized by urban and suburban development, wooded river floodplains, extensive woodlands on steep hillsides and agricultural lands; confluence of the Mississippi, Black, and LaCrosse rivers
- Waters: warm-water streams; 7 lakes including 2 exceptional resource waters; headwaters of high quality trout streams
- Experiencing rapid residential growth due to proximity to Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area
 - There are 107,120 residents living in La Crosse County



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 7,105 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas and streambank protection areas, most of which is open to public hunting
- Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- DNR Service Center, 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd., La Crosse 54601, 1 Wildlife Biologist; 1 Wildlife Technician; 2 Fisheries Biologists; 3 Conservation Wardens (1 vacancy); 1 Warden Supervisor for 6 counties, 3 Customer Service Reps.
- Mississippi River staff - 1 half-time Fisheries Biologist; 1 quarter-time Fisheries Technician
- Some staff also serves portions or all of Crawford, Monroe, and Vernon counties.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Establish and maintain forest, grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, wild turkeys, deer, and numerous other wildlife species on public and private lands.
- Preserve and maintain Van Loon Wildlife Area and historic McGillivray Road and bridges
- Wardens work with officers from adjacent states to combat illegal harvest and transportation of fish and game, involving both sport and commercial harvest.
- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, thistle, garlic mustard, and boxelder to assure high-quality native habitat.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites as well as building and maintaining parking areas.
- Enforce fishing regulations on the Mississippi River, emphasizing illegal harvest and overbagging of walleyes and panfish
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, frogs, songbirds, and eagles.

- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functional for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.
- Trout habitat restoration (funded by trout stamp)
- Lake and stream monitoring (population estimates, species inventories, and wild trout stocking)
- Work with federal agencies to leverage over \$500,000/Yr for Mississippi River habitat work using \$38,000/Yr of state money.
- Continue to leverage \$430,000/Yr in federal money to monitor fish, invertebrates, plants and water quality on the Mississippi River.
- Manage and monitor sport and commercial fisheries on the Mississippi River
- On the Mississippi River, continue to add at least 400 restored acres per year to the 7,100 acres completed since 1989.

La Crosse County Conservation Snapshots

21 BOAT Launch Facilities
19 ALIS License Agents Supported
7 Deer and 5 Turkey Registration Stations
542 Acres Public Stream access sites



Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- 1 lake stocked with 10,000 walleye
- 2 ponds stocked with 1,750 trout;
- 16 Streams stocked with 46,710 wild brook and brown trout

County Success Stories

- Van Loon Wildlife Area is one of the largest contiguous bottomland hardwood forests in western WI.
- Habitat project on Lake Onalaska greatly increased fish and wildlife habitat and numbers
- Local wardens and La Crosse Tribune present the annual WI Ethical Hunter Award
- Mississippi River Cleanup organized by wardens, utilizing 300+ volunteers annually
- Through a habitat project on the Mississippi River, Lake Onalaska, greatly increased fish and wildlife numbers and habitat conditions.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management
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Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

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